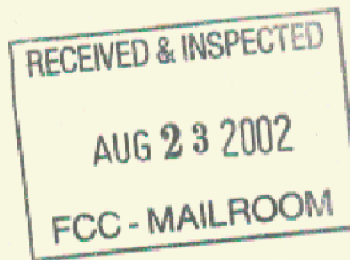


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January 15, 2002

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Michael K. Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Montana State University is a large user of telecommunication services which support our internal operations, communication among campuses, and extensive research initiatives. Fortunately, we are able to buy these services from a negotiated contract; however, we are always interested in pursuing ways to improve access and lower costs.

I have kept abreast of the process Qwest has undertaken to meet the federal requirements to apply for approval to long distance service to its Montana customers. I have also reviewed the changes in prices for services in states where the incumbent service provider has been approved to offer long distance services. I've concluded that it would be in Montana's best interest to have another competitor for our long distance business. In particular, businesses that use large volumes of long distance services will benefit from additional competition.

I understand Qwest is now applying to your commission for approval to offer long distance service. I urge you to review this application positively. Its approval will allow Montana State University and large users to benefit from heightened competition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Gamble".

Geoffrey Gamble
President

C: Rick Hays - Qwest

GG/ns

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